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Westminster, January 21.

HER Majesty came this Day to the House of Peers, and being in Her Royal Robes seated on the Throne, with the usual Solemnity, Mr. *Aston*, Deputy Gentleman-Usher of the Black Rod, was sent with a Message from Her Majesty to the House of Commons, requiring their Attendance in the House of Peers. The Commons being come thither accordingly, Her Majesty was pleased to give the Royal Assent to

An Act for granting an Aid to Her Majesty, by continuing the Duties upon Malt, Mum, Syder and Perry, for One Year.

An Act for Naturalizing Elizabeth Cholmondeley, *the Wife of* George Cholmondeley *Esq;*

And Her Majesty afterwards made a most Gracious Speech to both Houses, which follows:

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE Misfortune of the King of Spain's *being forced back upon Our Coast by Contrary Winds, which I Hope will lose but very little Time, do's yet make it so Reasonable to hasten Our Preparations for this Years Service, that, tho' I am very Sensible of your Zeal in Forwarding all Things relating to Mine and the Publick Service, yet I cannot but take this Occasion to Desire you with all Earnestness that you would give the greatest Dispatch to the Business of this Sessions still Depending, which is so necessary for the Good of the Common Interest.*

Leghorne, Dec. 14. *N. S.* A *Dutch* Privateer has lately brought in here two *French* Prizes, laden with Corn: We hear an *English* Privateer has also lately taken a Prize, and sent her into Port *Spezzie*. Divers Couriers have lately passed through *Florence*, being sent to and fro between the Duke of *Savoy* and the Count *de Staremberg*, from whence it is judged that some considerable Design is in hand, wherein they are to act in concert one with the other.

Modena, December 14. Our Duke having acknowledged the King of *Spain*, *Charles* the Third, the Court of *Madrid*, under pretence that he holds his Estates as Fiefs of the Crown of *Spain*, has declared them to be forfeited, together with all his Goods and Effects whatsoever; and on the 7th Instant Monsieur *Andrie*, a *French* Intendant, and Signior *Allio*, a *Spanish* Commissary, came hither to oblige the Inhabitants to swear Allegiance to the *French* King, as Duke of *Modena* and *Reggio*, which both the Clergy and the Laity have accordingly been forced to do, being kept in awe by the Garison, that had been reinforced with two *French* Battalions of Foot from *San Benedetto*. They are also taking an Inventory of all the Effects belonging to our Duke which are to be found here. The Inhabitants of this Place are forbid to correspond with him, on pain of being proceeded against as Rebels; and an Order is published, requiring all such Subjects of this Dutchy, as removed out of its Territories upon the Approach of the *French* Forces, to return to their former Places of Abode within 8 days, on pain of forfeiture of their Goods and Estates. Monsieur *de St. Fremont* is appointed by the *French* King to be Governor of this Town; and great Alterations are to be made in our Magistracy.

Venice, Dec. 29. Our Senate has lately thought fit to take away the Freedom of a certain District about their Houses, called their Quarters, which the Foreign Ministers here have hitherto enjoyed; whereupon Expresses have been dispatched to the respective Courts, as well from this Government, with an Account of this Proceeding, and the Reasons that induced them to it, as from the Ministers themselves, to acquaint their Masters with what has passed, and desire Instructions how to behave themselves on this Occasion. Signior *Bartolo Gradenigo* was lately elected into the number of the Procurators of *St. Mark*, having paid for his Promotion to that Dignity the usual Sum of 25000 Ducats, to be applied to the Service of the Publick. The Senate has given Orders for fortifying *Dezenzano*, on the Lake *di Garda*, and for 1000 Foot to be sent thither to reinforce that Garison, which consists at present of 500 Men; and the *French* are fortifying *Castiglione delle Stivere*. We are in great Expectation of the Success of General *Staremberg*'s Expedition, who has managed his Designs with so much Prudence and Secrecy, amusing the *French* with several feint Marches, and with sending out Detachments at the same time divers contrary ways, the better to conceal his real Intention of joining the Duke of *Savoy*, that there is little reason to doubt but that he has accomplished it; which will entirely break the Measures of the Enemy, who were getting ready a Train of Artillery at *Cremona*, and making other Preparations, with intent, as is said, to have begun some Siege early in the Spring on the Borders of *Piedmont*. They write from *Milan*, That several *Germans* and Hussars, who were in the Service of that State, have deserted, and are gone over to the Duke of *Savoy*. Several Imperial Officers are gone from *Ostiglia* to *Trent*, to receive a good number of Recruits which are to be sent them from *Germany*. They write from *Rome*, That the Pope has held an Extraordinary Congregation, upon the Occasion of the *French* King's late violent Proceedings against the Duke of *Modena*, which are of such a nature, that they will, it's hoped, serve to open the Eyes of this Republick, and of the other Princes and States of *Italy*. Letters from *Constantinople* say, That the Grand Signior and his Ministers have, upon several Occasions, declared their Resolution of observing the Peace of *Carlowitz*, and have refused to hearken to any of the Proposals which have been made to them by *French* Emissaries, of assisting the Rebels in *Hungary*, and breaking with the Emperor. *Mauro Cordato*,

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